

Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. James T. Morris by  
Representative Barbara Lee  
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations  
For the Hearing:  
“The World Hunger Crisis”  
Thursday, May 25, 2006

- 1. I understand that the need for food assistance continues to rise, especially in countries that are struggling with conflict or have fallen victim to natural disaster. What are the needs for emergency food today, and how does the World Food Program anticipate for emergency food?**

WFP estimates a total annual need of US\$ 2.9 billion to effectively deliver 3.9 million metric tons of emergency food aid to vulnerable populations in 2006. These needs are for emergency food aid alone, and barely begin to address the formidable needs of the chronically hungry and undernourished people WFP would ultimately like also to serve. Unaddressed chronic needs are particularly challenging, and particularly tragic, among women and children. There are roughly 850 million chronically hungry people worldwide, including one in three Africans and more than 350 million children.

WFP is concerned that emergency food assistance needs will continue to increase, driven by the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters (as noted in a recent World Bank report); political conflict and insecurity; the detrimental impact of weak policy and governance on food security; and the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS, especially as seen in the sharply rising number of orphans.

To project and revise food aid needs and trends, WFP relies on in-house Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) Needs Assessment, contingency planning, and market analysis, as well as on the best advice and surveys of a broad range of UN, NGO, government, academic, and inter-governmental bodies including FAO and the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System.

To meet projected needs, at WFP we are constantly enhancing our logistics, procurement, pre-positioning, and assistance targeting capabilities. We have also harnessed the strength of our balance sheet to develop a Working Finance Capital facility that introduces significant business process efficiencies and enables us to provide more food sooner for the same funding. However, to plan and to implement planned assistance, WFP depends entirely upon voluntary donations funding from donors.

- 2. There has been talk of the Sudanese government having food stocks in-country, but not distributing them. Has it been possible to pressure the Sudanese government to distribute aid, and generally cooperate with the food operations not destructing the distribution in Darfur? In what ways does the Government of Sudan deliberately interfere in the food operations?**

The Government of Sudan has from time to time over the years, and again this year, made food available to WFP for distribution in our emergency operations. However none of the various levels of Government has strong independent reserve systems in place like those in place in Ethiopia, for

example. Also, there are several Ministries and Departments within the Government that must sign off on the release of Government-held reserve stocks. It is not easy to efficiently muster the support needed at the same time in all the relevant units in order to secure the release of stocks.

It is also the case that both Khartoum and State/District/Local officials have carefully restricted legal humanitarian access over the years to regions in their control or under their jurisdiction. Uncertain or outright lack of access to populations in need directly damages the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver critically needed aid. Similarly, bureaucratic requirements in the form of permits, which are sometimes denied, reduce access and have had a negative impact on WFP work and, even more so, on the efforts of NGOs.

Beyond the troubles we have with legal access and authorities, the humanitarian community is of course menaced by pervasive insecurity. Sudan, and particularly Darfur this year, can be a dangerous place to work. No one group holds a monopoly among the many militias, bandits, warlords, and others who threaten displaced populations and those who try to assist them. There are many parties to conflict in Sudan, and only some are in the direct or even indirect chains of command of those who have signed agreements on the South, the Three Areas, and in Darfur. All parties must take responsibility for ending the insecurity and violence.

**3. The Rome Declaration calls upon us to reduce by half the number of chronically undernourished people on the Earth by the year 2015; however I understand that meeting the goals of the World Food Summit's Plan of Action is becoming more and more difficult. What countries have decreased the number of undernourished and hungry and what are the major challenges facing those countries that will not meet the goals?**

Comparing data on prevalence of undernourishment in 1990/92 with 2002/04 we see better than 10% improvements in: Peru, Djibouti, Ghana, Angola, Chad, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kuwait, Guinea, Malawi, Viet Nam, Guyana, Saint Vincent/Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Rwanda. Many of these started the period with very high levels of undernutrition. By the same measure, we have seen more than 10% increase in: Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liberia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Burundi, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, and Eritrea.

Sadly, the challenges these countries face are multiple. They include chronic poverty, daunting health and sanitation problems, fragile agricultural and physical infrastructure, inadequate economic growth and development, and a global rise in the incidence of natural disasters. All these factors make halving undernourishment a huge challenge that will require a broad range of measures with a particular focus on ending hunger and malnutrition among children. WFP will continue to work closely with other UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and broader civil society in the US and around the world to solidify just such a response. More resources, including food aid, will be needed to make headway. While we made great progress in reducing poverty in the 1990s, we have actually started to lose ground on hunger and malnutrition as the numbers affected have been rising by roughly 6 million per year over the last decade.